

United States Department of Agriculture



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Help the Land*

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February 27, 2006

MINNESOTA BULLETIN No. 260-6-16

SUBJECT: INF- 2006 EQIP PROGRAM NEWS RELEASE

Purpose. To distribute a news release about an EQIP one-time payment adjustment.

Expiration Date. December 31, 2006.

Attached to this bulletin is a news release about an EQIP one-time payment adjustment. Please feel free to adapt, as needed, and distribute as soon as possible to your local news outlets.

The State Office will distribute this news release to a wide-array of media outlets in the State.

All technical questions about EQIP should be directed to Timothy Koehler, EQIP State Manager at (651) 602-7857. Questions regarding public information efforts should be directed to Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist, at (651) 602-7859.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachment (1)

DIST: AO

NEWS RELEASE

(Name and Phone Number)

EQIP ONE-TIME PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT

St. Paul, MN, Feb. 28, 2006 – A one-time payment adjustment may allow eligible Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP participants to complete conservation practices that have been delayed because of recent increases in energy prices, according to _____, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service in _____.

The assistance is part of USDA's effort to mitigate the impact of high energy costs on agricultural producers, _____ said. "The adjustment should provide some economic relief to participants and encourage them to finish conservation practices to protect and benefit the environment," _____ said.

The one-time adjustment will apply to participants who signed EQIP contracts in 2004 or earlier. Increase in payment will apply to specific practices that have been most affected by spikes in the cost of concrete, steel, plastic pipe and other construction materials. The increase will only be paid for practices that are completed between March 1 and June 30, 2006 and will focus on specific practices that have escalated in price by 20 percent or more because of rising energy costs.

The following practices are included in this initiative: Waste Storage Facility and Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control System, Fence, Grade Stabilization Structure, Pipeline, Structure for Water Control and Compositing Facility. For a listing of additional practices, contact your local NRCS office.

Administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, EQIP is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promote agricultural production and environmental quality. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to participants who implement structural or management practices on agricultural land.

For more information on this one-time adjustment, go to the NRCS Website <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov> or visit you nearest USDA Service Center